

## Interview Summary

Application No.

10/528,138

Applicant(s)

ROY, FRANCIS

Examiner

Ruth C. Rodriguez

Art Unit

3677

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Ruth C. Rodriguez, PTO. (3) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Robert Patch, Applicant's representative. (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: 11 April 2007.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: Mr. Patch brought a sample of the fastening device and made a demonstration of how the hinge pin can only exit the annular housing through the groove of the hinge pin thereby avoiding accidental disengagement of the hinge pin.

Claim(s) discussed: 10.

Identification of prior art discussed: Of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Mr. Patch provided an amended version of the claim. The amendment establishes that the hinge pin extends from the watch case in a first direction and that the annular housing opens radially outwardly in a second direction transverse to the first direction so that the strap must be moved along the second direction in order to have the protrusion entering or exiting the annular housing through the groove. This amendment overcomes the prior art rejection of record. However, additional search may be needed before indicating allowability of claims since the amendment includes new limitations that were not present on the prior claims. A copy of the proposed changes is enclosed.

10. (currently amended) Device for fastening a watch strap to a watch case comprising a hinge pin (1) integral with the watch case (2) and extending from the watch case in a first direction, a fastening element (3) attached to or integrated to an end of ~~[[a]]~~ said strap provided with two lugs (15) defining between them a space (16) to receive the hinge pin (1), each of these lugs comprising an axial recess (17) leading to said space, each of said axial recesses (17) housing an endstone (21) mounted in a sliding manner in said recess (17) and bearing a push button (20) attached to an external end of the endstone (21), the hinge pin (1) comprising on a lateral face an annular housing (25) ~~having~~ opening radially outwardly through a groove (26) ~~defining an advantageous orientation~~ in a second direction transverse to said first direction, said annular housing (25) receiving a protrusion

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(27) located on [[a]] said lug (15), whereby, for a user to fasten or remove the watch strap from the watch case, [[a]] said button must be pushed and simultaneously said end of the strap must extend in said second direction ~~be in said advantageous orientation with respect to the hinge pin.~~

(27) located on [[a]] said lug (15), whereby, for a user to fasten or remove the watch strap from the watch case, [[a]] said button must be pushed and simultaneously said end of the strap must extend in said second direction ~~be in said~~ advantageous orientation with respect to the hinge pin.

\* AND WHEREBY SAID PROTRUSION CAN  
ENTER OR EXIT SAID ANNULAR HOUSING  
ONLY THROUGH SAID GROOVE.